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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: Political Parties
in the Hung Men Society
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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1976 from the
Director of Central Intelligence

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Note: Within the Hung Men Society or Chinese Freemasons Society, four political parties have recently been announced: the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party, the China Livelihood Promotion Party, the Democratic Reconstruction Association, and the Chinese Freemasons' Prosperity Association. The Hung Men Society has traditionally been a loose organization of semi-independent clubs known as "shan" (mountains), a term which dates back to the period when each club was headed by a "bandit" chief whose headquarters was a mountain stronghold. Although each of the four parties listed above claims to represent the Hung Men Society, none actually can be said to represent the Freemasons either in China or overseas.)

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Note: Although strictly a Chinese organization, the Hung Men Society (also known as Chih Kung Tang) is alleged to have received a charter from the Masons of California, recognizing them as "Chinese Freemasons."

Historical Background of Hung Men Society (洪門 - Flood Gate)

1. The Hung Men or the Chinese Freemason Society (one of the leading secret societies in China) has a history of over three hundred years, its origin dating back to the end of the Ming Dynasty. During the period of Manchu rule (Ch'ing Dynasty) the Freemasons incessantly engaged in revolutionary movements against the invaders for the restoration of the Ming Dynasty of the Han race. They never succeeded and in approximately the middle of the Ch'ing Dynasty, many of them went to America, Australia, and South Sea Isles to establish Hung Men Societies as revolutionary forces.
2. When Dr. SUN Yat-sen started his revolutionary campaign, he received the wholehearted support of the overseas Chinese Freemasons whose assistance and money contributed much to the success of the Revolution of 1911. Dr. SUN was said to have joined the Hung Men Society in Honolulu shortly before the Revolution.

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3. Since the Revolution and through the War of Resistance, the Chinese Freemasons, especially those abroad, have contributed much financial and material help to the Central Government. Over one half of the \$800,000,000 fund raised by overseas Chinese for the War Resistance is said to have been contributed by the Chinese Freemasons.
4. The Chinese Freemasons in America have a history of about eighty years. There are in the United States, Canada, and Mexico over three hundred chapters, with over one hundred thousand members. In the South Sea Isles there are five hundred chapters with more than two and a half million members. The Chinese Freemasons in China and overseas are said to number more than three million.

The Aim and Nature of the Hung Men of Chinese Freemasons

5. All through the Ch'ing Dynasty the aim of the Chinese Freemasons was a political one, i. e., the overthrow of the Manchus and the restoration of the Ming Dynasty. Members who joined the Freemasons at that time were almost all well-educated. After the Revolution of 1911, however, the young Freemasons united simply for the sake of group benefit and protection. Most of them were uneducated and were looked down upon by decent families. However, they were very powerful, with gangsters or vagrants as leaders, and they carried on all kinds of underworld activities. Not only could members of the society keep themselves from being robbed, but they could also obtain help from their fellow Freemasons in time of need, as members were duty-bound to help one another. Everyone who joined the society was secretly taught special manners, actions, and pass-words. In some out-of-the-way places, many joined the society simply for protection from bandits. It is said that eighty percent of the Szechuan natives were members of "P'ao Ko Hui" / P'ao Ko -- Brothers of the Long Gown -- a mutual aid society which is a branch of the Hung Men Society.
6. During the war, overseas Chinese Freemasons like SZU-TU Mei-t'ang (司徒美堂), rendered much help to the National Government. This raised the status of the Society, and, at present, even professors and scholars can be found in it. Many officials, too, are affiliated with the Freemasons.

*Washington Note: SZU-TU Mei-t'ang was formerly a resident of New York and has lived in San Francisco for some time. He was once president of the On Leong Association, an honorary adviser to the Executive Yuan, and a councillor in that body.

Formation of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party (洪門民治黨)

7. On 10 October 1935 representatives of Freemasons from China and various places abroad held a meeting in San Francisco and decided to form a party called "Min Chih Tang" or Democratic Party, literally, "People's Rule Party", which name was not made public at that time. In March 1945 representatives of Freemasons from America assembled in New York and re-named the Democratic Party the "Hung Men Chih Kung Tang" or the Chinese Freemasons' Public Welfare Party. It was decided that representatives should be sent to set up the Party in China immediately. Delayed by transportation difficulties, representatives of Freemasons from various parts of China, America, Canada and the South Seas finally met in August 1946 in Shanghai. The main leaders attending were 81-year old SZU-TU Mei-t'ang (司徒美堂), Chairman of the "Hung Men Chih Kung Tang" and

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representative of the Five-Continent Freemasons' Society of America, Chao Yu (趙昱) Chairman of the Freemasons' Society in China, Chao Wen-tsao (趙文藻) representative of Freemasons in Australia and Chu Chia-chao (朱家兆) representative of Freemasons in Cuba. Besides drafting a five point petition to the Government the convention also decided to adopt its present name "Chung Kuo Hung Lien Min Chih Tang" or the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party (in short, "Min Chih Tang" or Democratic Party).

The Five Point Petition: (summary)

8.
 - a. Democracy, peace and unity must be achieved by stopping the civil strife.
 - b. The Government should be reorganized by putting capable men of the various parties in the government.
 - c. Nationalization of armies of the two military parties should be supervised by a Special Supervisory Committee composed of representatives from different parties.
 - d. Disputed areas should be called "New Experimental Administration Areas" to be administered by government-appointed persons from the non-military parties until the constitutional government is established.
 - e. Internal problems are not to be presented to the United Nations. Sovereign rights and territory are to be protected.

Organization and Future Function of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party:

9. There will be one secretariat, six departments (organization, propaganda, training, production, culture and education, and social movement), four committees (finance, planning, party history and work examination committees). Their future emphasis will be on national production. They will publish "Min Chih" (Democracy) Weekly as their party organ. Their permanent headquarters will be in Nanking. On the Double Tenth (10 October) they started broadcasting over their own station XHKK or Hung Sheng Broadcast Station situated at 105 Chin-Ling Road, Shanghai.

Recent Activity of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party:

10. The name "Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party" was adopted despite the objection of many Hung Men leaders who said that the name should be "Overseas Chinese Freemasons Democratic Party" since the party did not represent Freemasons in China. According to Ch'iao Sheng Pao, 20 Sept. 46, a responsible member of the party said that they would not start their regular functions until they heard from their headquarters in America. It was said that Szu-tu Mei-t'ang and a few other overseas leaders in China started the organization of this party. So far, they have not received approval from their headquarters in America.

Political Policies of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party

11. Interviews with various Shanghai Chinese on the possible political leanings of the party brought forth the following comments:

- a. A Shen Pao editor: Both Szu-tu Mei-t'ang and Chang Yu clearly expressed that they would support the Central Government.

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b. The editor of the liberal Hsin Min Wan Pao: This party is a democratic one or at least more democratic than the China Livelihood Promotion Party (another Hung Men party which has announced its existence). However, it represents the overseas Chinese Freemasons more than it does those in China.

c. A former minor official of the CC Clique: The leaders of the overseas Chinese Freemasons, having been brought up abroad, did not know the importance of getting approval from all the elders or "parents" of the Hung Men Association in China. (The old members of the Chinese Freemasons are considered "parents" in the Society). That was why so many leaders of the Chinese Freemasons in Shanghai objected to the adoption of such a title as "Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party" which means that it represents Chinese Freemasons in China and throughout the world.

d. A Chinese who is affiliated with some elders of the Chinese Freemasons in Shanghai: The organizers of the various Freemason parties are all unimportant members of the society. It is the regulation of the Society that "Chinese Freemasons throughout the world are as one and they are not supposed to form any kind of party". The real elders of the Society did not want to organize political parties, nor did they approve Ssu-tu Mei-t'ang's party as representing both overseas Chinese Freemasons and Chinese Freemasons in China.

The China Livelihood Promotion Party or "Chung Kuo Min Sheng Kung Chin Tang" (中國民生共進黨)

12. According to Hsin Min Wan Pao, Shanghai, 4 Sept, 1946, Chang Tzu-li (張子廉), Director of the Board of Directors of the Shanghai San Hsing Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill and Iron Works also known as the leader of the Hung Men Society or Freemasons in China, told the pressmen that a political party organized by the members of the Hung Men Society in China and abroad is called the "Chung Kuo Min Sheng Chin Tang" (or the China Livelihood Promotion Party). This party was organized and inaugurated a year ago, nine branch headquarters having been set up in different localities in Northwest China. According to Chang Tzu-lien, the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party which was inaugurated in Shanghai in August this year cannot represent the entire "Hung Men" because it was organized by only a small portion of leaders of the Hung Men Society. 25X1X6

13. In an interview of [redacted] with the editor of the Hsin Min Wan Pao, who reported the inauguration of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party, the editor said that Chang Tzu-lien has connections with the Kuomintang. The editor believed that the announcement of the China Livelihood Promotion Party was to counteract the announcement of the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party. The existence of the China Livelihood Promotion Party has been unknown to news circles. Nothing about the doctrine or organization has yet been made public. The editor also added that the printing of the announcement of the China Livelihood Party was by request and was not being collected by reporters of the Hsin Min Wan Pao. He believed that if there actually is a China Livelihood Promotion Party it is not as democratic as the Chinese

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Freemasons' Democratic Party.

Democratic Reconstruction Association "Min Chih Chien Kuo Hui"

14. The Democratic Reconstruction Association organized by Lin Yu-ming (林有義), Ts'ui Ts'ung-lai (崔從來) and Hsu Chun-wu (許君武) and others was inaugurated in Shanghai, 15 September 1946. In a press conference Hsu Chun-wu and others announced the following:

a. They had spent two months preparing for the organization of this association. They had registered in the Government and had obtained approval from the Municipal Social Affairs Bureau for its establishment.

b. The association was organized by a part of the Chinese Freemasons or Hung Men brothers throughout China. In Shanghai there are more than 70,000 members.

c. The aim of the association is to form a united social force for democracy and social reconstruction, to put into practice the San Min Chu Yi and to oppose any political party which tries to endanger the Chinese nation or race.

d. The chief function of this association will be social work, such as educational and medical help and other relief work. The scope of such function will be limited in Shanghai for the time being. A "Min Pao" (People's News) will be published as its association organ.

e. The association has nothing to do with the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party. It is an independent organization and is not yet a political party.

Policy of Democratic Reconstruction Association

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15. A liberal political observer told [redacted] that this association is pro-Kuomintang and is probably connected in some way with the CC Clique. The reasons for this conclusion are: first, among the leaders of this association who are almost all unknown members of the Hung Men Society, is Hu Chu-wu, former newspaper reporter and professor of Central University and Superintendent of the Ministry of Education who is probably a CC Clique man; second, whereas the Soviet-backed Shih Tai Jih Pao talked about the association in a very sarcastic tone, the CC Clique paper Tung Nan Jih Pao said freely that the association would not be apart from the Kuomintang Government and would definitely be faithful to Kuomintang's guidance and to the San Min Chu Yi; third, to get an association registered in the Municipal Social Affairs Bureau is not an easy task for any pro-CP or even real democratic political party. *[?] Hsu Chun-wu ?]

The "Hung Hsing" or Chinese Freemasons' Prosperity Association

16. Historical Background and Re-inauguration: The "Hung Hsing" (洪興) declared its re-inauguration in a ceremony held on 6 October 1946 with over 300 members attending. "Hung Hsing" is an old association which was dissolved at the outbreak of the war in 1937 and has been re-organized with the approval of the Social Affairs Bureau. It is an association of over 120 units of Chinese Freemasons that represent Chinese Freemasons throughout the world, according to the announcement in the papers. (When Wang Chih-pon, 王知本, leader of the association, was questioned in detail, however, he revealed that the association embodies thirty-six units which is thirty

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percent above the pre-war figure for the association.) The leaders of the association announced that the Chinese Freemasons' Democratic Party could represent only certain groups of overseas Chinese Freemasons.

17. Aim and Functions of the Chinese Freemasons' Prosperity Association: The leaders proclaimed that their aims in the past had been the overthrowing of the Manchu Regime and serving as a revolutionary or anti-Japanese force but that now members of the Association would devote their efforts to push the movement of national rehabilitation and reconstruction. They would not form any political party nor take part in any formation of a political party.

18. The Election of Directors and Supervisors: Among the number of about twenty-five Directors and Supervisors elected are the following: Hsiang Sung-p'o (向松坡), Chen Tzu-lien (張子廉), Cheng Tzu-liang (鄭子良), Ch'en P'ei-to (陳培德), Yu Han-ch'ing (伍漢屏), Wang Chih-pen (王知本), P'eng Chung-hien (彭仲年), Chiang Hao (蔣豪), Mao Yun (毛雲), Ch'en Chih-ch'iang (陳志強), Liu Ch'ang-yu (劉澄宇), Yuan Hsi-fan (袁洗凡), Lung Ch'ing-chuan (龍清泉), Li Jen-hui (李文輝), Li Hsi-yun (李栖云), Yee P'ei-fu (姚懋如), and Cheng Chuang (程莊).

Policies

19. As has been revealed by the leaders, this association is pro-Kuomintang and will support the Kuomintang. Among the directors and supervisors of this Association Hsiang Sung-p'o is the only well-known elder; he is the head of 'u Sheng Shan, a large unit of the Chinese Freemasons. It is also worthwhile noticing that Chen Tzu-lien, Head of the China Livelihood Promotion Party, is among the leaders. The China Livelihood Promotion Party has probably either amalgamated with the Chinese Freemasons' Prosperity Association or has joined it temporarily until the China Livelihood Promotion Party can further develop its own party.

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